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SIPDIS

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HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE//ECJ4-ID-HA

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SIPDIS

FROM AMEMBASSY ROME

GENEVA FOR RMA FOR NANCE KYLOH  
USEU BRUSSELS FOR KFULLER AND KDEBLAUW  
NSC FOR JDWORKEN  
USAID FOR A, DCHA, OFDA, FFP, AFR  
STATE FOR AF, IO, DAS/PRM  
USDA FOR FAS/EC/PDD TILLSWORTH AND  
FAS/ICD KRAMER LEBLANC  
USUN FOR LSHESTACK  
NAIROBI FOR REDSO AND OFDA/ARO  
BAMAKO FOR NESTES

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [EAGR](#) [AORC](#) [PREF](#) [WFP](#) [UN](#)

SUBJECT: SIERRA LEONE: A BRIGHTER FUTURE IN FOOD SECURITY

REF: A) ROME 1446, 03/15/01

B) ROME 1011, 02/26/02

C) CONAKRY 370, 02/27/02

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SUMMARY  
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[11.](#) USAID STAFF FROM THE U.S. MISSION IN ROME AND FOOD UNCLASSIFIED

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FOR PEACE/WASHINGTON TRAVELED TO GUINEA, SIERRA LEONE, AND LIBERIA JANUARY 27 THROUGH FEBRUARY 7 TO REVIEW THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION FOR REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS), AND RETURNEES. THIS REPORT FOCUSES SOLELY ON SIERRA LEONE. GUINEA AND LIBERIA HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN REFTELS B AND C.

[12.](#) THE OVERALL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE IMPROVED DURING 2001, DUE TO A BETTER SECURITY SITUATION AND ENHANCED AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY. RESETTLEMENT OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS) AND RETURNEES REMAINS A PRIORITY. WHILE THE GOVERNMENT OF SIERRA LEONE (GOSL) HAS DECLARED MOST CHIEFDOMS SAFE FOR RETURN AND OVER 76,000 IDPS/RETURNEES WERE RESETTLED IN 2001, SOME CHIEFDOMS OF KONO AND KAILAHUN DISTRICTS REMAIN UNSAFE FOR RETURN. THE FORMIDABLE TASKS OF REINTEGRATION AND REHABILITATION NEED TO CONTINUE VIA FOOD FOR WORK AND FOOD FOR AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON VOLATILE AREAS, SO AS TO MAXIMIZE THE CHANCES OF A PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT BEFORE AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS, CURRENTLY SCHEDULED TO BE HELD IN MAY 2001. AS OF FEBRUARY, THERE WERE 125,000 IDPS REGISTERED IN CAMPS AND WITH HOST FAMILIES AND APPROXIMATELY 107,000 REGISTERED SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION. CONTINGENCY PLANNING THE U.N. WORLD FOOD PROGRAM (WFP) FACES A COMPLETE BREAK IN ITS PIPELINE IN JULY. DONATIONS ARE URGENTLY NEEDED. SEE PARA 51 FOR RECOMMENDATIONS. END SUMMARY.

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BACKGROUND  
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[13.](#) JANUARY 27 THROUGH FEBRUARY 7, SENIOR EMERGENCY COORDINATOR (SEC) IN THE U.S. MISSION/ROME REGINA DAVIS AND DALE SKORIC, USAID/DCHA/FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER (FFPO), TRAVELED TO GUINEA, SIERRA LEONE, AND LIBERIA TO REVIEW THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION FOR REFUGEES, INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (IDPS), AND RETURNEES. WFP'S DEPUTY FOR THE WEST AFRICA REGION, ARNOLD VERCKEN, ACCOMPANIED THE USAID TEAM TO ALL THREE COUNTRIES. THE TEAM ALSO GOT THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS REFUGEE OPERATIONS WITH BRUCE KNOTTS, STATE DEPARTMENT REGIONAL REFUGEE COORDINATOR (REF COORD), DURING ITS TIME IN SIERRA LEONE.

[14.](#) THE TEAM MET WITH WFP/SIERRA LEONE (SL), THE THREE

FOOD PIPELINE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE U.N. FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION (FAO), AND TRAVELED TO THE DISTRICTS OF KAMBIA IN THE NORTHWEST (BORDERING FORECARIAH REGION OF GUINEA) AND KAILAHUN IN THE EAST BORDERING THE LANGUETTE REGION OF GUINEA AND ALSO CLOSE TO LIBERIA. IN KAILAHUN DISTRICT, THE USAID TEAM VISITED AN IMPROMPTU, UNOFFICIAL LIBERIAN REFUGEE CAMP LOCATED IN BUEDU, SEVERAL KILOMETERS FROM THE LIBERIAN BORDER, AND WENT TO DARU TOWN.

15. OVER THE PAST DECADE, SIERRA LEONE HAS SUFFERED FROM A BRUTAL CIVIL WAR. THE CONFLICT HAS BOTH ADDED TO AND BEEN FUELED BY UNREST WITHIN THE SUB-REGION.

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THE CURRENT CEASE-FIRE AND DISARMAMENT PROCESS, OVERSEEN BY 17,500 U.N. MISSION IN SIERRA LEONE (UNAMSIL) TROOPS DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, HAS ALLOWED ACCESS TO MANY PREVIOUSLY INSECURE AREAS. INCREASED ACCESS HAS ENCOURAGED RETURN OF REFUGEES AND IDPS AND HAS PROMPTED THE GOSL TO LAUNCH ITS RESETTLEMENT STRATEGY.

16. THE SEC VISITED GUINEA AND SIERRA LEONE AT THE SAME TIME LAST YEAR WHEN THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE UNREST ALONG THE BORDER BETWEEN SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA (REF TEL A). MANY SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES WERE RETURNING TO SIERRA LEONE FROM GUINEA, BUT THEIR ACTUAL HOME AREA(S) WERE UNSAFE FOR RETURN. RETURNEE CAMPS WERE BUILT AS AN INTERIM MEASURE. AS MANY OF THE RETURNEES CAME FROM THE DISTRICTS OF KONO AND KAILAHUN, A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER REMAIN IN THE INTERIM CAMPS TODAY. THOSE COMING FROM OTHER DISTRICTS WITHIN SIERRA LEONE HAVE SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO THEIR HOME DISTRICTS.

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DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION PROGRAM  
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17. THE GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION AND REINTEGRATION (NCDDR) IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE DDR PROGRAM. WHILE EARLIER CONSTRAINED, PROGRESS UNDER THE DDR PROGRAM SINCE MAY 2001 HAS BEEN EXTREMELY RAPID. SINCE JANUARY 2001, OVER 46,000 COMBATANTS HAVE

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TURNED IN SOME 14,500 WEAPONS AND 1.3 MILLION ROUNDS OF AMMUNITION.

18. WFP HAS TARGETED 2,574 FEMALE AND 23,161 MALE EX-COMBATANTS WITH 414 METRIC TONS (MT) OF FOOD ASSISTANCE, BUT ANTICIPATES THAT ALL ITS COMMITMENTS FOR THE DDR PROGRAM WILL BE SATISFIED BY THE END OF MARCH 2002, AT WHICH TIME THIS PROJECT WILL BE OFFICIALLY CLOSED. THEREAFTER, THE TRUE CHALLENGE WILL BE TO FIND ACTIVITIES FOR A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF THE DEMOBILIZED COMBATANTS, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE LITTLE INSTITUTIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE OR CAPACITY EXISTS. IN THIS REGARD, THE FOUR USAID/FFP-SUPPORTED FOOD PIPELINE AGENCIES (FPAS), NAMELY WFP, CARE, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (CRS) AND WORLD VISION, HAVE DESIGNED FOOD-FOR-WORK (FFW) PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE SUPPORT TO AREAS UNDERGOING HOUSING RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF PHYSICAL COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE.

19. IN EARLY JANUARY, THE FFW PROJECTS WERE NOTED BY BOTH THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE GOSL AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR TO THE REINTEGRATION PROCESS. THE FPAS PLAN TO EXPAND THEIR EFFORTS IN 2002 TO MAXIMIZE THE GAINS IN THE CURRENT PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT. THESE SUPPORTED ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE ERODED.

10. AT THE SAME TIME DURING 2001, 2,758 DISARMED CHILD COMBATANTS ENTERED UNICEF INTERIM CARE CENTERS (ICCS). WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY (AORS), ALL FPAS PROVIDED A FULL FOOD

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RATION OF 2,100 KILOCALORIES (KC) PER DAY PER CHILD IN THE ICCS PENDING REUNIFICATION WITH FAMILIES OR ASSIGNMENT TO FOSTER HOMES. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 216 STILL IN THE ICCS AND 284 IN ALTERNATIVE CARE (I.E. FOSTER HOMES OR INDEPENDENT LIVING ARRANGEMENTS), ALL THE CHILDREN WERE REUNIFIED WITH FAMILIES BY THE END OF 2001. A MAJORITY OF THE CHILDREN ALSO ENTERED A COMMUNITY EDUCATION INVESTMENT PROGRAM WITH SOME RECEIVING SKILLS TRAINING SUPPORTED BY NCDDR.

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RESETTLEMENT

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¶11. DURING LATE 2001 AND INTO 2002, THE SECURITY SITUATION IMPROVED IN THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE WESTERN AND SOUTHERN PROVINCES. SUCH STABLE PHYSICAL CONDITIONS HAVE PROMPTED A STEADY RETURN TO NEWLY-DECLARED SAFE AREAS. PARTS OF THE EASTERN AND NORTHERN PROVINCES REMAIN INSECURE WHERE POPULATION MOVEMENTS SEEM TO BE LESS FLUID, NOT ONLY DUE TO INSECURITY BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF BAD ROADS, POOR TRADE LINKS, MARKET INACCESSIBILITY, AND LOW PURCHASING POWER.

¶12. ALTHOUGH THE GOSL IS ANXIOUS FOR ALL REFUGEES AND IDPS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME AREAS, THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES (UNHCR) AND WFP MAINTAIN A POLICY THAT VOLUNTARY RETURN BE CARRIED OUT UNDER CONDITIONS OF SAFETY AND DIGNITY. UNHCR HAS ISSUED A UNCLASSIFIED

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STATEMENT CLARIFYING THAT IT WILL FACILITATE VOLUNTARY REFUGEE REPATRIATION ONLY TO AREAS ASSESSED TO BE SAFE FOR RETURN BY UNHCR. RETURNEES ORIGINATING FROM INSECURE AREAS WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE INTERIM SITES. THOSE WHO WISH TO RETURN HOME FROM A THIRD COUNTRY ARE TRANSPORTED TO THE NEAREST SAFE AREA. AS OF FEBRUARY 1, THERE WERE 36,892 SIERRA LEONEAN RETURNEES IN THE FOUR INTERIM SETTLEMENTS OF JEMBE, GERRIHUN, TATAMA AND BANDAJUMA. THERE ARE ALSO 125,000 IDPS REGISTERED IN CAMPS AND WITH HOST FAMILIES AND APPROXIMATELY 107,000 REGISTERED SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES IN THE REGION, WITH OVER 93,000 LOCATED IN GUINEA AND LIBERIA.

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COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID/COORDINATION AMONG THE FPAS

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¶13. IN THE FOOD AID SECTOR, THE FPAS HAVE DEVELOPED POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO ENSURE UNIFORM AND CONSISTENT IMPLEMENTATION OF FOOD AID PROGRAMS. THE MECHANISM FOR COLLABORATION IS THE COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID (CFA). THE CFA MEMBERSHIP IS COMPOSED OF SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FPAS, MAJOR FOOD AID DONORS, OCHA, FAO, THE GOSL, AND CHAIRED BY WFP. UNHCR HAS OBSERVER STATUS. THE COUNTRY IS DIVIDED GEOGRAPHICALLY INTO FOUR AORS WHERE EACH FPA HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR PROVIDING NEEDED FOOD RESOURCES WITHIN ITS AOR. ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS REGARDING SHARING OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS ARE DEVELOPED

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BILATERALLY BY THE AGENCIES INVOLVED.

¶14. ALTHOUGH THE FPAS SEEM TO HAVE ESTABLISHED A WORKABLE SYSTEM AMONG THEMSELVES REGARDING THE SHARING OF GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS, MAKING ALTERATIONS TO AN AOR IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE COMPLEX AS TIME GOES ON. FOR EXAMPLE, CRS IS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING A FFW RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM IN KAMBIA DISTRICT, WHICH IS THE AOR OF WFP. BECAUSE CRS IS THE SPONSOR OF THE PROJECT, CRS WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE ITS OWN FOOD FOR THE FFW, BUT SINCE THE PROJECT IS IN WFP'S AOR, CRS MUST ASK WFP'S PERMISSION TO DO SO. ON THE SURFACE, CRS PROVIDING ITS FOOD FOR ITS PROJECT WOULD SEEM TO BE FAR SIMPLER THAN HAVING WFP DELIVER THE FOOD TO THE PROJECT, BUT WHEN SUCH A REQUEST IS MULTIPLIED BY OTHER LIKE REQUESTS, IT CAN BECOME QUITE COMPLICATED.

¶15. THE IRONY IS THAT WFP IS SUFFERING PIPELINE PROBLEMS AND HAS ASKED CRS FOR A LOAN, SO IN ESSENCE WFP WOULD BE PROVIDING CRS ITS OWN FOOD IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY OF THE AORS. FLEXIBILITY ON THESE MATTERS IS OBVIOUSLY NEEDED. (NOTE: THE USAID TEAM WAS ASKED MORE THAN ONCE FOR ITS VIEW ABOUT LOANS TO WFP. FPAS ARE BECOMING RELUCTANT TO LEND WFP FOOD COMMODITIES DUE TO WFP'S UNCERTAIN/WEAK PIPELINE. PLEASE SEE PARAS 45-48 BELOW REGARDING PIPELINE INFORMATION. END NOTE).

¶16. UPDATED EACH YEAR, THE CFA STRATEGY FOR 2002 IS TO BE FINALIZED IN MARCH 2002. PARTICULARLY FOR 2003, THE CFA MUST DETERMINE THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF

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FOOD AID. THE CFA WILL ALSO NEED TO CONTINUE TO CLOSELY MONITOR THE SHORT AND MIDTERM IMPACT OF FOOD AID NOW BEING PROVIDED IN ORDER TO GUARD AGAINST CREATING DISINCENTIVES TO LOCAL AGRICULTURE. THE CFA IS THE ONLY NATIONAL COMMITTEE CHAIRED BY AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION (I.E. WFP) AND THUS THE

CFA NEEDS TO WORK CLOSELY WITH FAO AND THE AGRICULTURAL NGOS, AS WELL AS ENSURE THAT IT ENCOURAGES AND BUILDS THE GOSL CAPACITY SO IT CAN TAKE ON MORE RESPONSIBILITY IN THE FORMULATION OF APPROPRIATE FOOD AID STRATEGIES AND POLICIES.

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ASSESSING NEEDS  
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¶17. IN THE FALL OF 2001, MARK LAWRENCE FROM SAVE THE CHILDREN/UK TRAINED WFP INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL STAFF IN THE FOOD ECONOMY ASSESSMENT (FEA) METHODOLOGY. FOLLOWING THE TRAINING, WFP STAFF IN CONJUNCTION WITH STAFF FROM THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT, AND AFRICARE CONDUCTED A COMMUNITY FOOD SECURITY PROFILING (CFSP) ASSESSMENT IN SIX FOOD ECONOMY AREAS IN WFP'S AOR FROM NOVEMBER 11 TO DECEMBER 3. THE AIM WAS TO EXPLORE AND DEFINE THE CAUSES, SEASONALITY, AND LEVELS OF FOOD VULNERABILITY AMONG SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS AND GEOGRAPHIC AREAS. THE RESULTS FROM WFP'S WORK HIGHLIGHTED THE MAIN RISKS AND CONSTRAINTS THAT PREVENT INDIVIDUALS FROM BREAKING OUT OF THE VULNERABILITY CYCLE. THE FINDINGS WILL HAVE CONSEQUENCES ON WFP'S 2002  
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OPERATIONS, BENEFICIARY TARGETING, AND MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF PROJECTS.

¶18. ALTHOUGH SUCH INFORMATION IS CRUCIAL IN UNDERSTANDING THE FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE AND THE FEA MODEL IS A GOOD ONE, THE USAID TEAM WAS DISAPPOINTED TO LEARN THAT WFP HAD NEITHER INVOLVED THE FPAS IN THE PROCESS, NOR HAD KEPT THEM INFORMED OF ITS PLANS. UNICEF AND FAO WERE ALSO NOT INCLUDED IN THE WORK. CONSEQUENTLY ONLY WFP'S AOR HAS BEEN ANALYZED BY THE CFSP, AND THEREFORE A COUNTRY-WIDE PERSPECTIVE ON FOOD SECURITY IS MISSING AT THIS TIME. PROGRESS NEEDS TO BE MADE ON OBTAINING FOOD SECURITY DATA ON THE ENTIRE COUNTRY USING THE SAME METHODOLOGY.

¶19. BEING LOCKED OUT OF THE CFSP PROCESS FROM THE BEGINNING, THE OTHER FPAS TOLD THE FFPO AND SEC THEY ARE WILLING TO BE BROUGHT ON BOARD TO THE CFSP. THE TEAM DISCUSSED WFP'S LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITH ITS MANAGEMENT AND RECOMMENDED THAT EFFORTS BE MADE TO BE MORE TRANSPARENT AND COMMUNICATIVE. WFP AGREED THAT FURTHER CLARIFICATION ABOUT THE CFSP WOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE FPAS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS WILL BE EVER MORE IMPORTANT IF THE CFSP FINDINGS ARE TO BE INCORPORATED INTO THE 2002 CFA STRATEGY.

¶20. COMMENT: WHETHER OR NOT IT MAKES SENSE TO TRAIN THREE NGOS IN THE FEA METHODOLOGY SO THAT THEY CAN CONDUCT A CFSP IN THEIR AORS IS DEBATEABLE. AT THIS POINT, IT MIGHT BE MORE COST-EFFICIENT AND  
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EXPEDITIOUS TO BRING FAO AND UNICEF INTO THE PROCESS, WHO WAS ALSO EARLIER LOCKED OUT, TO JOIN FORCES WITH WFP TO CONDUCT A NATIONWIDE FOOD SECURITY SURVEY. THIS MUST BE DISCUSSED IN THE FIELD WITH ALL RELEVANT PARTNERS AND A CONCLUSION QUICKLY REACHED. END COMMENT.

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FOOD SECURITY / AGRICULTURE  
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21. THE 2002 CEREAL NEEDS FOR SIERRA LEONE TOTAL 550,000 MT. CURRENT PRODUCTION AND IMPORTS FOR 2002 ARE ESTIMATED AT 290,000 MT. TOTAL FOOD PROGRAMMED BY THE FPAS FOR SIERRA LEONE FOR 2002 AMOUNT TO 82,000 MT, LEAVING A CEREAL DEFICIT OF OVER 178,000 MT.

¶22. THE OVERALL FOOD SECURITY SITUATION IMPROVED DURING 2001 AS A RESULT OF THE GOSL AND DONORS, THROUGH THEIR IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS, PROVIDING AGRICULTURAL INPUTS (RICE, GROUNDNUT AND VEGETABLES SEEDS, ROOTS AND TUBERS PLANTING MATERIALS, WATERING CANS) TO THE RELATIVELY SAFE AND STABLE COMMUNITIES. HARVESTS OF RICE, CASSAVA, SWEET POTATO AND VEGETABLES WERE RATED GOOD' IN THE DISTRICTS OF BO, KENEMA, PORT LOKO, BOMBALI AND KAMBIA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT VERY FEW AGENCIES VENTURED INTO THE LESS SAFE AREAS TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY INPUTS.

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123. WFP HAS NOTED THAT THE NUMBER OF MARKET SELLERS IN ITS AORS INCREASED AND THAT MOST OF THE LOCALLY-PRODUCED FOOD ITEMS LIKE ROUGH AND PARBOILED RICE, PALM OIL, CASSAVA, POTATO LEAVES AND TUBERS WERE COMING FROM THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND CHIEFDOMS. THE PRIMARY PERSISTING CONCERN RELATED TO FOOD SECURITY, PARTICULARLY ALONG THE BORDER AREAS, IS THE POTENTIAL FOR LARGE AND RAPID INFLUXES OF REFUGEES AND RETURNEES FROM LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE.

124. WFP ALSO RECENTLY LEARNED FROM ITS CFSP THAT ALTHOUGH RETURNEES ARE ABLE TO PURSUE VARIOUS STRATEGIES FOR OBTAINING FOOD AND INCOME, A LARGE CONCENTRATION OF RETURNEES WILL INEVITABLY STRAIN, AND IN CERTAIN CASES, OVERWHELM LOCAL ABSORPTION CAPACITY, HENCE CREATING COMPETITION FOR RESOURCES. THE DIFFERENTIAL IN THE STATE OF FOOD SECURITY BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND RETURNEES IS NOT AS GREAT AS EXPECTED. AT THE SAME TIME, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAFE AND PREVIOUSLY INSECURE AREAS IS ALSO NOT AS GREAT AS EXPECTED. THIS IS ATTRIBUTED TO A LACK OF CONFIDENCE EVEN IN SAFE AREAS, COMBINED WITH THE DIVERSION OF THE LABOR FORCE TO DEFENSIVE ACTIVITIES, AS WELL AS TO ADVERSE MARKET CONDITIONS IN SAFE AREAS.

125. THE TEAM SUPPORTS AN INCREASE OF FOOD-FOR-AGRICULTURE (FFAG) AND FOOD-FOR-TRAINING (FFT) PROGRAM ACTIVITY, WITH THE LATTER CONCENTRATING ON PROJECTS GEARED TO LOW-INCOME GROUPS ACQUIRING VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL SKILLS AND LITERACY THAT WILL  
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CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR ABILITY TO BECOME FINANCIALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT. FAO AND WFP WERE ADVISED TO CLOSELY COORDINATE THEIR ACTIVITIES WITH ONE ANOTHER, SOMETHING THE TEAM BELIEVES HAS BEEN LACKING. BOTH AGENCIES' WORK WOULD BENEFIT FROM A STRONGER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO.

126. THE FPAS ALSO SHOULD CONTINUE WITH THEIR EMERGENCY SCHOOL FEEDING (ESF) AS THIS ACTIVITY IS FOCUSED ON GETTING SCHOOLS REOPENED IN THE ACCESSIBLE AREAS, ENCOURAGING THE DAILY ATTENDANCE AND RETENTION OF ALL CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY GIRLS, AND ENSURING THAT, ONCE IN SCHOOL, SHORT-TERM HUNGER DOES NOT INHIBIT THEIR CAPACITY TO LEARN. TO BENEFIT FROM THE ESF, PRIMARY SCHOOLS MUST HAVE A MINIMUM RATIO OF FEMALE TO MALE STUDENTS, BE GOVERNMENT-RECOGNIZED, HAVE A FUNCTIONING COMMUNITY-TEACHER ASSOCIATION (CTA) AND A HEAD-TEACHER AND AN ON-SITE TEACHING STAFF OF AT LEAST TWO GOVERNMENT-RECOGNIZED AND/OR CERTIFIED TEACHERS TO OVERSEE THE ESF.

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CARE, CRS AND WORLD VISION

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127. CARE IS CURRENTLY SUPPORTING THE RESETTLEMENT, REINTEGRATION AND RETURN TO LIVELIHOOD SECURITY OF 249,155 WAR-AFFECTED THROUGH EMERGENCY FEEDING, REHABILITATION, RESETTLEMENT AND SURVEILLANCE ACTIVITIES IN 14 CHIEFDOMS IN MOYAMBA DISTRICT AND 10 CHIEFDOMS IN TONKOLILI DISTRICT.  
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128. CRS CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE THE REHABILITATION OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVE CAPACITIES THROUGH FFAG AND FFW. AN AGRICULTURAL RECOVERY COMPONENT IS CONTINUING INTO ITS THIRD YEAR WITH LOCAL COMMITTEES USING RECOVERED SEED LOANS FROM 2001 AS LOCAL RESOURCES TO SUPPORT SELF-HELP REHABILITATION PROJECTS. FOOD RATIONS ARE SERVING AS PROTECTION FOR RICE SEEDS FURNISHED THROUGH USAID/DCHA/OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA) FUNDING FOR NEWLY RESETTLED COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH AND EAST. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SEEDS PROTECTED BY THE FOOD RATIONS WILL ALLOW A 50 PERCENT INCREASE IN THE AVERAGE RICE ACREAGE PLANTED AND PRODUCTION PER HOUSEHOLD.

129. WORLD VISION CONTINUES TO ENCOURAGE THE IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSEHOLD FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINED PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY FOR 204,000 PERSONS IN 16 CHIEFDOMS IN SOUTHERN PROVINCE OF BO, BONTHE AND PUJEHUN DISTRICTS, AS WELL AS IN ALL 14 CHIEFDOMS IN THE KONO DISTRICT OF EASTERN PROVINCE. HOWEVER, WORLD VISION DID INDICATE TO THE TEAM THAT IT IS CONSIDERING PHASING OUT ITS EMERGENCY FOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE SOUTH BY REINFORCING LOCAL CAPACITY AND MOVING FROM RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT.

130. ALL THREE FPAS EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST TO MOVE FROM A FOOD EMERGENCY PROFILE TO A FULL DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT IN 2003. WHILE IT IS NOTED THAT 2001 WAS A RELATIVELY PEACEFUL YEAR FOR SIERRA LEONE AND THE  
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SECURITY SITUATION HAS GRADUALLY IMPROVED ALONG WITH THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE DDR PROCESS, THE TEAM IS CONCERNED THERE ARE MANY LINGERING FACTORS THAT COULD EASILY UPSET THIS STABILITY. GIVEN THE UNPREDICTABLE CONTEXT OF THE REGION AND UNCERTAINTY OF THE ELECTION PROCESS, IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2003 MAINTAIN FLEXIBILITY FOR THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES ENABLING THE SWIFT SHIFTING OF SUPPLIES GEOGRAPHICALLY, AS WELL AS BY PROGRAM, PENDING A NEW CRISIS.

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VISIT TO KAMBIA DISTRICT  
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131. KAMBIA DISTRICT IS AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN DECLARED SAFE FOR RETURN BY THE GOSL AND IS WFP'S AOR. KAMBIA SERVED AS A TEST CASE FOR THE DDR PROGRAM AND WAS THE FIRST DISTRICT IN WHICH THE REBELS WERE DISARMED. THE PRIMARY ACTIVITIES IN KAMBIA ARE FARMING, FISHING, AND TRADING, WITH THE LATTER BEING MAXIMIZED DUE TO KAMBIA'S CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE GUINEAN BORDER.

132. SINCE DECEMBER 2001, WFP HAS ASSISTED IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 10,500 PERSONS IN KAMBIA BY PROVIDING THEM WITH TWO-MONTHS RESETTLEMENT RATIONS. WITHIN KAMBIA, WFP IS ENGAGED IN SEVERAL FFW ACTIVITIES--MOSTLY ROAD REHABILITATION TO IMPROVE MARKET ACCESS IN THE AREA. THE WORK FOCUSES ON HEAVY BRUSH REMOVAL, DRAINAGE CONSTRUCTION, OVERHEAD  
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CUTTING, AND FILLING POTHOLE. ONCE A TASK IS IDENTIFIED, WFP PROJECTS THE WORK TO TAKE A CERTAIN NUMBER OF DAYS. THE FOOD IS THEN PROVIDED IN ALLOTMENTS AFTER A BENCHMARK OF WORK HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. IF THE WORKERS ARE GOING TOO SLOWLY, NO ADJUSTMENTS ARE MADE TO THE RATION SIZE; THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF FOOD DETERMINED FOR THE WORK REMAINS CONSTANT.

133. WHILE IN KAMBIA ON FEBRUARY 5, THE MISSION ALSO HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AN FAO INCOME GENERATION ACTIVITY FOR WOMEN. UNDER THIS INITIATIVE, WOMEN ORGANIZE THEMSELVES INTO GROUPS OR COOPERATIVES AND ARE PROVIDED WITH A SMALL GENERATOR AND GRINDER THAT IS USED TO MILL CASSAVA. A WAREHOUSE, FOR STORAGE PURPOSES, IS ALSO CONSTRUCTED. ALREADY, SURROUNDING VILLAGES WERE COMING TO THIS VILLAGE TO UTILIZE THE SMALL MILLING OPERATION. THIS PROJECT IS GENERATING QUICK INCOME FOR WOMEN, AS WELL AS PROVIDING INCOME TO EMBARK ON TRADITIONAL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN RURAL AREAS. DURING THE TEAM'S VISIT, THE COMMUNITY'S APPRECIATION OF THE PROJECT WAS QUITE APPARENT.

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VISIT TO KAILAHUN DISTRICT  
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134. KAILAHUN AND KONO (JUST NORTH OF KAILAHUN) DISTRICTS ARE CURRENTLY THE MOST FOOD INSECURE REGION IN SIERRA LEONE. THE PRIMARY REASONS FOR THE FOOD SHORTAGE IS DIRECTLY LINKED TO THE SECURITY  
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SITUATION. A NUMBER OF CHIEFDOMS IN KAILAHUN AND KONO DISTRICTS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DECLARED SAFE FOR RETURN BY UNHCR. KAILAHUN IS AN AOR OF WFP, AND AS A RESULT OF INSECURITY IN THE DISTRICT THROUGHOUT 2001, WFP DID NOT HAVE ACCESS UNTIL AUGUST 2001, SOON AFTER UNAMSIL TROOPS ARRIVED. SIERRA LEONEAN MILITARY TROOPS HAD JUST ARRIVED THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 4 AND WERE SETTING UP BASE CAMPS. THE TEAM ALSO SAW LINES OF DECOMBATANTS WAITING TO RECEIVE THEIR ONE-OFF STIPEND OF 150 USD FOR DISARMING AND REGISTERING.

135. WHILE IN KAILAHUN DISTRICT ON FEBRUARY 6, THE TEAM WAS ABLE TO VISIT AN IMPROMPTU, UNOFFICIAL LIBERIAN REFUGEE CAMP LOCATED IN BUEDU, SEVERAL KILOMETERS FROM THE LIBERIAN BORDER, AND WENT TO DARU TOWN. DUE TO SECURITY CONSTRAINTS AND THE PROXIMITY TO THE BORDER, WFP DOES NOT PROVIDE GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS TO LIBERIAN REFUGEES ACCOMMODATED IN UNOFFICIAL CAMPS IN KAILAHUN, BUEDU AND KOINDU TOWNS. WFP WORKS CLOSELY WITH UNHCR TO MOVE REFUGEES, WHO

CHOOSE TO DO SO, TO SAFER CAMPS IN KENEMA DISTRICT WHERE THEY PROVIDE ASSISTANCE. BEFORE A STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS DECLARED IN LIBERIA ON FEBRUARY 8 AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2002, UNHCR ESTIMATED THERE WERE SOME 2,000 LIBERIAN REFUGEES WHO DESIRED TO BE MOVED FROM THE BORDER TO SAFER LOCATIONS.

136. IN BUEDU, THE TEAM HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH SEVERAL RECENT ARRIVALS, SOME COMING AS RECENTLY AS ONE WEEK PRIOR. THEY TOLD THE TEAM THEY HAD BEEN HELD FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS AT THE BORDER BEFORE BEING

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ALLOWED TO CROSS. OTHERS HAD LEFT THEIR VILLAGES SEVERAL MONTHS AGO. THE TEAM TALKED WITH ONE YOUNG BOY FROM FOYA WHO WAS IN THE SIXTH GRADE. HE HAD RECENTLY LOST HIS MOTHER AND SISTER IN THE FIGHTING, HIS FATHER HAD DIED SOME YEARS BEFORE, AND HE WAS NOW THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY. HE WAS WILLING TO RE-LOCATE TO KENEMA.

137. IT WAS THE GENERAL FEELING OF THE GROUP THAT THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA WAS DETERIORATING AND THAT MORE PEOPLE WOULD BE CROSSING INTO SIERRA LEONE. FEELING EQUAL UNREST ABOUT THE SITUATION IN LIBERIA, SOME 3,000 SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES FROM CAMPS IN WESTERN LIBERIA CROSSED THE BORDER BY FOOT INTO PUJEHUN DISTRICT THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF FEBRUARY.

138. THE REFUGEES IN BUEDU WHO HAVE DECIDED AGAINST RELOCATION SEEM TO HAVE SOME ACCESS TO LAND, AS WELL AS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON NEARBY FARMS. FOR CASUAL WORK UNDERTAKEN, THE REFUGEES ARE BEING PAID BY THE FARMERS IN-KIND WITH FOOD (I.E. RICE) OR IN CASH (ABOUT 500 LEONES PER DAY, EQUAL TO APPROXIMATELY 25 CENTS). WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT HOW MANY REFUGEES WERE IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA, ONE OF THE RESPECTED ELDERS IN THE CAMP NOTED THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 6,000 TO 10,000 REFUGEES IN BUEDU, OF WHOM 750 HAD EXPRESSED AN INTEREST IN RESETTLING TO SAFER AREAS. THESE NUMBERS COULD NOT BE VERIFIED BY THE TEAM, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THE LARGER PERCENTAGE OF THE REFUGEES WERE OPTING AT THIS POINT TO REMAIN IN BUEDU, RATHER THAN SEEK RE-LOCATION TO THE UNHCR CAMP

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IN KENEMA, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE RECEIVING NO FORMAL ASSISTANCE.

139. ALTHOUGH NOT PROVIDING FOOD THROUGH A GENERAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION, WFP IS PROVIDING FOOD TO SEVERAL SUPPLEMENTARY AND THERAPEUTIC FEEDING CENTERS: INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL CORPS (IMC) IN KAILAHUN AND BUEDA (OPENED NOVEMBER 16; ABOUT 30 NEW PATIENTS PER DAY), ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM (ACF) IN KANGAMA AND KOINDU, AND MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES (MSF) ALSO IN KAILAHUN, IN ORDER TO TARGET MALNOURISHED CHILDREN. A MIXTURE OF REFUGEES AND IDPS ARE TREATED.

140. THE TEAM VISITED A RAPID RESPONSE EDUCATION PROJECT (RREP) OVERSEEN BY THE NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL IN DARU TOWN. IN THE RREP, CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 10-15 WHO HAVE LOST YEARS OF EDUCATION DUE TO THE WAR UNDERGO A SIX MONTHS INTRODUCTION COURSE THAT ENABLES THEM TO BE TRAINED AND TRANSFERRED TO FORMAL SCHOOLS. WFP SUPPORTS THIS INITIATIVE IN KAILAHUN DISTRICT, AS WELL AS IN OTHER DISTRICTS OF SIERRA LEONE, BY PROVIDING FOOD TO THE SCHOOL FOR HOT MEALS DURING CLASS TIME. THE RREP IN DARU HAS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFERRED 5,975 CHILDREN (2,872 GIRLS) TO FORMAL SCHOOLS SINCE IT BEGAN IN MAY 2000. WFP'S SUPPORT OF THE RREP IS AN IMPORTANT ACTIVITY.

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LOGISTICS  
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141. ALL THE FPA FOOD COMMODITIES THAT ENTER SIERRA LEONE ARRIVE AT THE PORT OF FREETOWN. WFP RECENTLY SPENT 600,000 USD TO REHABILITATE ONE OF THE MAIN PORT STORAGE SHEDS AND IN AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PORT AUTHORITY WFP WILL NOW HAVE USE OF THIS SHED FOR A PERIOD OF TEN YEARS AT AN ANNUAL RENT OF ONE US DOLLAR. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE PORT FACILITIES REMAIN POOR, AS DOES SECURITY. THE PORT AUTHORITY DOES NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO PROCURE THE EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE SERVICES TO PORT USERS. CONSEQUENTLY, FREETOWN PORT REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST EXPENSIVE PORTS IN WEST AFRICA LARGEY DUE TO ITS INEFFICIENCIES. IMPROVEMENTS OF THE PORT FACILITIES

ARE MUCH NEEDED. UNDER A SPECIAL OPERATION (SO), WFP IS TO PROVIDE THE PORT WITH MUCH NEEDED EQUIPMENT, SUCH AS DIESEL FORKLIFTS, TERMINAL TRACTORS AND A 40-FOOT SPREADER UNIT TO FACILITATE THE OFFLOADING/LOADING OF CONTAINERIZED CARGO. THE SO REMAINS UNDER FUNDED.

142. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT DURING MOST OF 2001, THE FPAS CONTINUOUSLY FACED SECURITY PROBLEMS IN THE PORT DUE TO PILFERAGE OF AND WILLFUL DAMAGES TO COMMODITIES BY PORT STAFF. ALTHOUGH MUCH EFFORT BY THE FPAS WAS EXTENDED TO ENSURE THAT PORT MANAGEMENT BETTER CONTROL THE WORKING AREAS SO THAT ONLY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL WERE PRESENT WHEN A VESSEL IS UNLOADING, THE EFFORTS HAVE PRODUCED LITTLE FRUIT, AS PILFERAGE CONTINUES TO SOME EXTENT. THE INSTIGATORS ARE OFTEN PORT WORKERS OR THEIR ACCOMPLICES. UP TO UNCLASSIFIED

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TWO TO THREE PERCENT OF LOSSES HAVE BEEN NOTED FOR SOME SHIPMENTS.

143. THE LONG HAUL COMMERCIAL TRANSPORT MARKET IN SIERRA LEONE IS APPARENTLY STRONG AND COMPETITIVE. ALL THE FPAS UTILIZE COMMERCIAL TRANSPORTERS FOR THE DELIVERY OF FOOD COMMODITIES FROM FREETOWN TO EXTENDED DELIVERY POINTS. IN THE RAINY SEASON, HOWEVER, SMALL FEEDER ROADS BECOME VERY DIFFICULT TO PLY WITH TRUCKS WEIGHING TEN MT OR MORE. SOME OF THE FPAS WFP RELYIES UPON THEIR ITS OWN FLEETS (NAMELY WFP) TO MOVE FOOD COMMODITIES TO MORE REMOTE LOCATIONS. HOWEVER, IN RECOGNITION OF THE INCREASE OF COMMERCIAL HAULERS, THE FPAS SHOULD ENSURE THAT DEDICATED TRUCKS ONLY BE USED ONLY WHEN CRITICALLY NECESSARY, SO AS NOT TO COMPETE AGAINST THE LOCAL TRANSPORT SECTOR.

14431. WFP MAINTAINS A HELICOPTER OPERATION THAT PERFORMS A MULTITUDE OF VITAL FUNCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFECTIVE PLANNING AND RUNNING OF VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS. HOWEVER, WFP RECOGNIZING THAT THE SITUATION IN SIERRA LEONE IS EVOLVING, AND IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT ACCESS AND SECURITY CONCERNRS ARE STILL REMAIN VALID TO FOR THE SUPPORT A HELICOPTER OPERATION, WFP WILL UNDERTAKE A REVIEW WITH DONOR AND HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS WILL BE UNDERTAKEN AT MID YEAR. IN THE MEANTIME, THE HELICOPTER OPERATION ALSO REMAINS UNDER- FUNDED.

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PIPELINE  
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145. FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY--DECEMBER 2002, WFP/SL IS TARGETING 507,000 BENEFICIARIES WITH 53,081 MT OF ASSORTED FOOD COMMODITIES. AS OF 6 FEBRUARY, WFP/SL HAD CONFIRMED CONTRIBUTIONS OF 8,710 MT LEAVING A BALANCE OF 44,371 MT STILL TO BE RESOURCED. IN FISCAL YEAR 2002 (FY02), USAID/DCHA/FFP HAS CONTRIBUTED 7,200 MT (VALUED AT 4.8 MILLION USD) OF TITLE II EMERGENCY COMMODITIES, OR SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 13 PERCENT OF WFP'S PROTRACTED RELIEF AND RECOVERY OPERATION (PRRO) REQUIREMENTS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE MAJORITY OF RETURNEES' HOMES ARE LOCATED IN WFP AORS.

146. IN ADDITION, USAID/DCHA/FFP HAS APPROVED 28,490 METRIC TONS OF TITLE II EMERGENCY COMMODITIES IN FY02 TO CARE, CRS, AND WORLD VISION - AT A TOTAL VALUE OF 20.5 MILLION USD. (SEE TABLE BELOW) USAID IS THE SOLE CONTRIBUTOR TO THE THREE NGOS' PIPELINES.

FPA	TOTAL MT	BENEFICIARIES	TOTAL VALUE
CARE	6,530	249,155	6,560,334
CRS	12,900	239,500	7,900,700
WVI	9,060	263,995	6,009,000
WFP	7,200	507,000	4,754,800
TOTAL	35,690	1,259,650	25,224,834

147. WFP/SL WAS EXPERIENCING A SERIOUS SHIPPING DELAY OF U.S. COMMODITIES DURING THE TEAM'S VISIT, WHICH  
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WAS DUE TO CAUSE A TEMPORARY BREAK IN WFP'S CEREAL PIPELINE IN FEBRUARY. EVEN THOUGH THE FOUR FPAS BORROW FROM EACH OTHER WHEN NECESSARY, THE FACT THAT THE THREE NGO FPAS RECEIVE ALL THEIR COMMODITIES FROM THE U. S. ALLOWS THEM TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY PIPELINES, WHEREAS THE U.S. COVERS ONLY A PORTION OF WFP'S PIPELINE NEEDS. THE CURRENT DELAY OF WFP COMMODITIES COUPLED WITH WFP'S ONGOING PIPELINE PROBLEMS CAST A

SHADOW OF DOUBT AS TO WHETHER THE WFP ANTICIPATED ARRIVALS IN MARCH WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO HANDLE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD RESETTLEMENT PACKAGES, WHICH CONTAIN A TWO-MONTH RATION. THE CURRENT ESTIMATED MONTHLY DISTRIBUTIONS FOR ALL FPAS COULD INCREASE IF THE RESETTLEMENT PROCESS SUDDENLY ACCELERATES.

**148.** UNLESS FURTHER RESOURCES ARE COMMITTED, WFP WILL EXPERIENCE ACROSS-THE-BOARD BREAKS IN ITS PIPELINE IN JULY. WFP IS MAKING EVERY EFFORT TO COVER SHORTFALLS WITH BORROWINGS, EITHER FROM WFP'S REGIONAL PRRO OR LOCALLY FROM THE OTHER FPAS. BECAUSE OF THESE PIPELINE PROBLEMS, WFP HAS BEEN FORCED TO EITHER MODIFY RATION SCALES OR PROVIDE UNBALANCED FOOD BASKETS OR BOTH. SHOULD WFP CONTINUE TO FACE GAPS IN ITS PIPELINE AND AT THE SAME TIME RECEIVE NO ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS, THE OTHER FPAS MAY NO LONGER BE IN A POSITION TO LOAN WFP THE NECESSARY COMMODITIES TO COVER SHORTFALLS. RATHER, THESE FPAS MAY BE REQUIRED TO TAKE OVER OPERATIONAL

**149.** IT IS EXPECTED THAT TITLE II EMERGENCY COMMODITIES PROVIDED IN 2003 WILL BE SIGNIFICANTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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LESS THAN THAT PROVIDED IN 2002. SERIOUS DELIBERATION AND ANALYSIS MUST BE INVESTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE CONTINUATION OF MAINTAINING FOUR PIPELINES MAKES SENSE PROGRAMMATICALLY AS WELL AS FINANCIALLY. THEREFORE, TO PROVIDE AN INTEGRATED, EFFICIENT AND COST EFFECTIVE APPROACH THE NUMBER OF FPAS WILL LIKELY BE REDUCED IN 2003 THROUGH A CAREFUL ANALYZATION APPROACH. AT THE VERY LEAST, A COST-SAVING MEASURE WOULD BE TO STREAMLINE THE LOGISTICS OPERATION UNDER ONE FPA BECAUSE TONNAGES WOULD PRESUMABLY BE DECREASING IN 2003. IT IS ALSO EXPECTED THAT ONE FPA COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL LOGISTICS STORAGE OPERATIONS IN FREETOWN. THIS OPTION IS NOW BEING EXPLORED.

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CONTINGENCY PLANNING  
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**15033.** DUE TO THE VOLATILE SITUATION IN LIBERIA, AND THE POTENTIAL MASS MOVEMENT INFLUX OF LIBERIAN REFUGEES, AND POSSIBLE ACCELERATED RETURN OF SIERRA LEONEAN REFUGEES, THERE IS A GREAT NEED FOR FURTHER CONTINGENCY PLANNING. AND PREPAREDNESS AS THE CURRENT CRISIS IN LIBERIA DEEPENS AND POPULATION DISPLACEMENT INCREASES. MOREOVER, IN LIGHT OF THE UPCOMING ELECTION PROCESS AND THE POTENTIAL FOR DETERIORATION IN THE CURRENT SITUATION, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT CONTINGENCY PLANNING MEASURES BE UNDERTAKEN IMMEDIATELY BY THE UN COUNTRY TEAM TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ENSURE READINESS FOR POTENTIAL EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND AN ABILITY TO COPE WITH A DECLINING SITUATION WITHIN SIERRA LEONE. AN ANALYSIS OF THE REGIONAL DYNAMICS AND AN EXAMINATION OF RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

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RECOMMENDATIONS  
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**151.** THE TEAM MAKES THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:

- REGARDING WFP SPECIFIC OPERATIONS:

WFP SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT FFW AND FFAG PROJECTS, FOCUSED ESPECIALLY ON THE REINTEGRATION PROCESS.

WFP SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE EMERGENCY SCHOOL FEEDING PROJECT, IF WFP'S PIPELINE ALLOWS, ONCE LIFE-SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES ARE FULFILLED.

WFP SHOULD ENSURE THAT POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING TAKES PLACE IN THE INTERIM CAMPS, AS WELL AS IN ALL REFUGEE AND IDP CAMPS.

- THE CFA NEEDS TO DEVELOP A CLEAR POLICY ABOUT ONE FPA WORKING IN ANOTHER'S AREA. THE CURRENT POLICY, REQUIRES APPROVAL FROM THE FPA IN CHARGE OF THE AOR, BUT WITH A GROWING NUMBER OF REQUESTS, THIS SYSTEM IS NOW BECOMING TOO COMPLICATED.

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- WFP AND FAO/TCOR NEED TO WORK MORE CLOSELY

TOGETHER IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY.

- THE FPAS, WORKING CLOSELY WITH FAO AND UNICEF, NEED TO AGREE ON A PLAN OF ACTION ABOUT HOW TO SURVEY THE COUNTRY TO DETERMINE FOOD SECURITY NEEDS. THE CFSP IS ONE ALTERNATIVE, IF IT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED IN A SYSTEMATIC WAY THROUGHOUT ALL AORS. SUPPOSITIONS ABOUT FOOD SECURITY NEED TO BE CROSS-CHECKED WITH REALITY.

- IF WFP'S REVIEW OF THE HELICOPTER OPERATION DETERMINES THERE IS A CONTINUED NEED FOR THE SERVICE, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT USAID/OFDA CONSIDER ADDITIONAL FUNDING.

- WFP/SL'S PIPELINE IS EXTREMELY FRAGILE. WITH CURRENT COMMITMENTS, WFP WILL EXPERIENCE A COMPLETE BREAK IN THE PIPELINE IN JULY. A DEMARCHE TO KEY DONORS HIGHLIGHTING THE ANTICIPATED BREAK MIGHT BE HELPFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE.

- SERIOUS DELIBERATION AND ANALYSIS MUST BE INVESTED TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT THE CONTINUATION OF MAINTAINING FOUR PIPELINES IN 2003 MAKES SENSE PROGRAMMATICALLY, AS WELL AS FINANCIALLY. AT THE VERY LEAST, A COST-SAVING MEASURE WOULD BE TO STREAMLINE THE LOGISTICS OPERATION UNDER ONE FPA BECAUSE TONNAGES WOULD PRESUMABLY BE DECREASING IN 2003. ALL OPTIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED BY USAID/FFP.

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- WITHIN THE PORT, THERE IS LIMITED CONTAINER HANDLING EQUIPMENT AND A LACK OF STEVEDORE GEAR TO HANDLE PALLETIZED CARGO. WHILST WFP IS ALREADY PROVIDING SOME MUCH NEEDED COMMODITY HANDLING EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE THE OVERALL CARGO HANDLING SITUATION, THE LACK OF DONOR FUNDING TO WFP'S SO FOR THE PORT REHABILITATION HAS RESULTED IN AN OVERALL REDUCTION IN THE PORT'S ALREADY COMPROMISED LEVEL OF EFFICIENCY, WITH FURTHER CONSEQUENCES FOR THE COSTS OF FOOD AID, OTHER AID AND COMMERCIAL IMPORTERS. ALONG WITH THE PORT REHABILITATION AUTHORITY, WFP HAS IDENTIFIED A NUMBER OF PRIORITY REQUIRED MEASURES AND THESE SHOULD BE SUPPORTED TO INCREASE THE OVERALL OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY OF FREETOWN PORT. HEILEMAN